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of some parishes will be but indifferently written. Many of the established clergy know next to nothing of the parish in which they are placed. They are so frequently changed, and have so little opportunity, and still less inclination to investigate, with an impartial eye, the manners and customs, &c., of the people, that it cannot be expected they will be able, in many cases, to furnish correct information.

I am aware, that a majority of that respectable body is fully equal to the task; but in several instances, I fear, it will be otherwise. Nor am I, altogether, without proof of the fact, as the following anecdote will testify. A certain vicar lately applied to the writer of this article for some statistical information relative to a respectable parish in the north of Ireland. In the course of conversation the clergyman observed, that he knew very little about the parish, and with regard to the *character of the people*, he declared, he would not give it favourable! Now the truth is, there is scarcely a more respectable and intelligent parish in Ireland. But what could be expected from the *liberality* of a *Divine*, who asserted in the author's hearing, that *there was not a gentleman in the whole United States of America. That they were all sprung from thieves and robbers!*

For these reasons, I think the compiler would do well to write to the Presbyterian and the other clergymen through the kingdom, who have in many respects more local knowledge, and a more intimate acquaintance with the people than the clergy of the established church. I think the Belfast Magazine would be an excellent vehicle for conveying parochial descriptions to the public. There errors could be pointed out, and impartial and authentic

BELFAST MAG. NO. LXV.

information communicated. I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.

G.*

Nov. 17th, 1813.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE following instance of disinterested benevolence in the public cause, in the character of the late Granville Sharp, a man whom nothing seems to have escaped when he could be instrumental in doing away an evil, or in the promotion of a good, is extracted from the Philanthropist.

Mr. Granville Sharp, having no distinct trade or profession, was honoured by government with an appointment in the office of Ordnance in the Tower. But a man of such independence of mind was quite unfit for a tool of office. This the event soon showed; for being called upon to ship cannon to America, and conceiving the American war to be unjust, he demurred at the execution of the order; soon after which, reasoning more closely upon the subject, he resigned his post, determining not to do that which his conscience protested against as unjust.

In consequence of his disinterested integrity on this occasion, the Congress had such an opinion of his uprightness, that altho' an Englishman, they selected him without any personal acquaintance with him, and without his knowledge, as mediator between themselves and the government of Great-Britain in their dispute with the latter. To forward their design, they sent Dr. Franklin

* A writer in the October Magazine, page 268, has adopted my signature, without any specification, this is unfair; I have made use of the above since the very commencement of the Magazine, see the article Combustion, &c., No. 1.

for complying with the wishes of the public, and for carrying his plans into execution, he has collected the materials for the work, and these will be arranged for the press, by a respectable literary gentleman. Judging of their future patronage from his past experience of public kindness, his father flatters himself, that from the profits of this interesting work, he will be able to give his son the education of a learned man, at one of the Universities.

The work will be printed on the best paper, in a style of superior elegance, and embellished with a Portrait; along with the most remarkable incidents of his life, it will contain a minute detail of the development of his extraordinary faculties, an enumeration of several hundred intricate questions, and his extemporaneous answers; tables of his method of extracting the Cube and Square roots, and determining the differences of these roots.

The price to Subscribers will be a Guinea and a Half.

The following gentlemen, who are well acquainted with the extraordinary powers of this child, have kindly undertaken to receive subscriptions in Scotland and England:

Sir James Mackintosh,
Sir H. Davy,
Basil Montagu, Esq.,
A. Carlyle, Esq.,
Professor Leslie.

In Ireland the following gentlemen have also undertaken to serve the child by receiving subscriptions, and will give a receipt for the same:

Rev. The Dean of Cork.
Rev. Dr. Davenport,
Rev. Archdeacon Brinkley,
Rev. Dr. Mooney.

The names of subscribers are likewise received by Mr. Colburn, and will be handed over to one of the abovementioned gentlemen.

A few weeks ago Zarah Colburn, accompanied by his father, arrived in Belfast, on his way from Dublin to Glasgow college. At a meeting of the Managers of the Belfast Academical Institution, on the 16th of November, he was introduced to the members, and exhibited some specimens of his extraordinary powers of mind, in the multiplication of figures. He was asked by a gentleman present, how much thirteen times 365 was? he instantaneously answered, 4745. He was then asked what was the cube-root of 307,546,875; he instantly answered 675. In short, there appeared to be no limits to the powers of his mind in calculation. These powers were first discovered when he was only six years old. At that period his father having, to his astonishment, accidentally heard him tell the produce of two figures multiplied together, asked him all the questions in the multiplication table, to which he gave correct answers, without stop or hesitation; he proceeded afterwards to ask him higher numbers, and in every instance he answered correctly. At the Coffee room in Belfast, he again exhibited his unequalled powers of calculation, while surrounded by great numbers of gentlemen. He was very playful, and quite at his ease, whilst his auditory were all puzzling their heads in devising the most intricate questions for his solution. They were, however, answered as quickly as they were proposed. From among the many the following are selected.

He was asked the cube root of 51,230,158,344; he answered almost instantaneously, 3714. Being asked the 4th root of 3,701,506, he said there was no root; which was true, the number having been (intentionally) wrong read. Again being asked the 4th root of 37,015,056, (the right number,) he answered 78. He mul-

son and others wished to quash the business of review. Unfortunately for this argument, the motion was made by a person wholly disinterested, and who had not been present the preceding year; namely, Dr. Wm. Neilson, who, I am persuaded, had no correspondence with Dr. Black, or those who generally voted with him, on the question relative to Dr. Dickson. Certainly this gentleman would never lend himself to support the unjust and arbitrary views of any party or faction whatsoever.

With respect to the erasure of the entire minute, "An Actor" and I have different opinions. I believe Mr. Porter thought he could not carry the point; "An Actor" thinks Mr. Porter conceived that it would be of *advantage* to let it remain; and that this was his motive for not bringing the motion forward. Certain I am, we must consider this his grand or principal motion; for the resolutions he brought forward, were, though of moment in themselves, yet in part intended to lead to its adoption. That he might come to it with greater effect, he moved a string of resolutions. Surely, therefore, none of these resolutions can with any propriety of speech be considered the *grand* motion. I believe men whose minds are not biassed by party-feeling, will regard the subject in this point of view.

It were easy for me to support other parts of my remarks, and animadver on some inconclusive reasoning in "An Actor's" paper; but enough, more than enough, has been said. I therefore remain yours, &c.

AN OBSERVER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE periodical publications have already informed the world of

the superlative and unparalleled abilities of Zarah Colburn*, son of Mr. Colburn, of the state of Vermont, in America, a child just *nine years of age*, who possesses the singular faculty of solving a great variety of arithmetical questions, by the mere operation of the mind, and without the usual assistance of any visible symbol or contrivance.

When this faculty of mind, for which he is so remarkable, began to develop itself, it produced astonishment in the minds of those who witnessed it, they became interested in the child, and particularly wished that his peculiar talent should be cultivated by a proper education.

The wishes of the public exactly coincided with the father's desire, but his humble, though honourable avocation, rendered him unable to comply with that which lay nearest to his heart. From what he already knew of the abilities of his child, he looked forward with anxious anticipation to the time when he would throw new light upon the science of numbers, and communicate to the world his own peculiar rapid mode of calculation. When he looked upon himself, he plainly saw that "his lot forbade" to lead him through the labyrinth of mathematics, and opposed an insuperable barrier to the prosecution of a study, for which he seems to have been formed by nature; and which, if properly followed up, must ultimately be attended with the most lasting and important advantages to society in general, he was consequently thrown into a dilemma. In this state of suspense he was advised to publish the life of his son.

Conceiving this the most honourable and eligible mode of procedure

* Some account of this singular and interesting child was published at page 124, Vol. 10 of the Belfast Magazine.